

EXHIBIT A

COPY

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

NEW ENGLAND CARPENTERS HEALTH)
BENEFITS FUND, et al,)

Plaintiffs)

-VS-

FIRST DATABANK, INC.,)
a Missouri Corporation;)
and McKESSON CORPORATION,)
a Delaware Corporation,)

Defendants)

) CA No. 05-11148-PBS
) Pages 1 - 23

STATUS CONFERENCE

BEFORE THE HONORABLE PATTI B. SARIS
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

United States District Court
1 Courthouse Way, Courtroom 19
Boston, Massachusetts
February 9, 2006, 3:30 p.m.

LEE A. MARZILLI
CERTIFIED REALTIME REPORTER
United States District Court
1 Courthouse Way, Room 3205
Boston, MA 02210
(617) 345-6787

1 A P P E A R A N C E S:

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8 JOAN M. GRIFFIN, ESQ., Burns & Levinson,
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10 MARK C. REDMAN, ESQ., The Hearst Corporation,
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in-house counsel for The Hearst Corporation.

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P R O C E E D I N G S

THE CLERK: The case of New England Carpenters Health Benefits Fund, et al V. First Databank, Incorporated, et al, Civil Action No. 05-11148, will now be heard before this Court. Will counsel please identify themselves for the record.

MR. SOBOL: Good afternoon, your Honor. Tom Sobol for plaintiffs.

MR. MACORETTA: Good afternoon, your Honor. John Macoretta for the plaintiffs.

MS. SCHECHTER: Good afternoon, your Honor. Lori Schechter for McKesson.

MS. GRIFFIN: Joan Griffin also for McKesson.

MR. REDMAN: Mark Redman, in-house counsel at The Hearst Corporation, which is the parent company of First Databank.

THE COURT: Thank you. Where are we in this case, the plaintiffs? Then I'll hear from defendants.

MR. SOBOL: Where we are, your Honor, is there are two defendants. You've ruled on a 12(b)(6) motion as to McKesson back in December, us, the case ready to go forward vis-a-vis McKesson. There are settlement discussions that are under way with the other defendant, First Databank.

The issue before your Honor today is what to do vis-a-vis scheduling. I think that there are three issues

1 THE COURT: No.

2 MS. SCHECHTER: -- as was done in the MDL?

3 THE COURT: Unless I -- that was just different.
4 And if I become persuaded that I don't understand it, I'll
5 back it off, but right now I'm not seeing that.

6 MS. SCHECHTER: Okay. I mean, we will seek to
7 present some of the very same evidence that was presented to
8 show that the self-administered class for TPPs cannot be
9 certified in the same manner that your Honor has already
10 ruled.

11 THE COURT: That may be true, I mean, because I
12 really understand it now. I mean, the expert helped me
13 through the industry.

14 MS. SCHECHTER: I don't mean the independent
15 expert. I was just saying that the parties are going to push
16 forth expert reports, and the plaintiffs had contemplated
17 that in their order, and we'll need to take their
18 depositions. That's all, that's all I was suggesting.

19 THE COURT: So play it out a little bit more for
20 me. What do you mean? The experts on what? On --

21 MS. SCHECHTER: On class certification issues.

22 THE COURT: On what issue?

23 MS. SCHECHTER: Well, for example, the
24 relationships between the PBMs and the TPPs and how it might
25 affect the pricing that goes into this, the fact that --

1 THE COURT: Sure, all the things I saw last time.
2 Anything new?

3 MS. SCHECHTER: Correct, but McKesson has not
4 developed that evidence. We haven't even seen that evidence.

5 THE COURT: I think it's either all publicly
6 available, and if it's not, move to either make it publicly
7 available or to come in under the protective order.

8 MS. SCHECHTER: Okay, that would work for us
9 because we don't have access to it because of the protective
10 order.

11 THE COURT: But if you read my opinion, I mean,
12 there may be new things because you're a wholesale level, and
13 I dealt before with different levels, but we talked quite a
14 bit about wholesale. Just I understand it better, and I may
15 not decide to hire an independent expert.

16 MS. SCHECHTER: I'm just suggesting we would put in
17 an expert report.

18 THE COURT: Oh, I'm assuming you will. That's fair
19 enough. You don't know yet who your expert is?

20 MS. SCHECHTER: No, we do not.

21 MR. REDMAN: Your Honor, we would probably do the
22 same. Again, it is a little different with a publisher
23 actually in the case this time as opposed to on the fringes,
24 so I just wanted to --

25 MS. SCHECHTER: So the issue only becomes, is the

C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT)
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS) ss.
CITY OF BOSTON)

I, Lee A. Marzilli, Official Federal Court
Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript,
Pages 1 through 23 inclusive, was recorded by me
stenographically at the time and place aforesaid in Civil
Action No. 05-11148-PBS, New England Carpenters Health
Benefits Fund Vs. First Databank, Inc., et al, and thereafter
by me reduced to typewriting and is a true and accurate
record of the proceedings.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this
20th day of February, 2006.



LEE A. MARZILLI, CRR
OFFICIAL FEDERAL COURT REPORTER